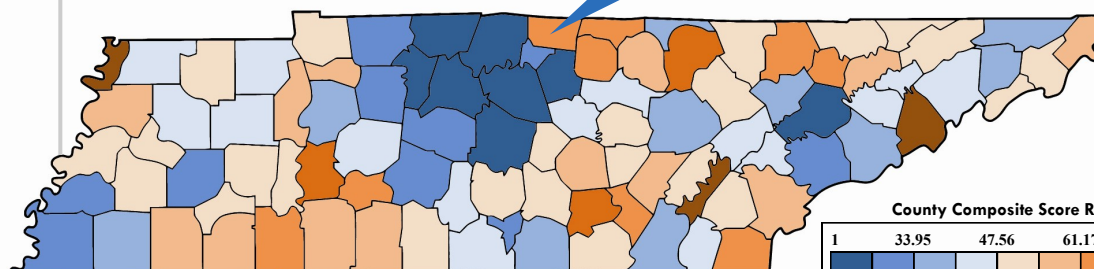


# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## SNAPSHOT: MACON COUNTY

2012



County Composite Score Ranges



Ranges defined as 0.5 standard deviations from the mean score of 47.56.

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Population (2010): **20,386**Pop. Density: **67/square mile**Seat of Government: **Lafayette**Largest City: **Lafayette**

Down  
from  
61st

COUNTY	RANK	INDICATOR SCORES & RANKINGS	DATA	RANK
McNairy	77	Employment and Earnings Composite	66.80	85 ▼
Grainger	78	Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females*	\$25,369	79 ▼
Houston	79	Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Male Earnings)	78.11%	37 ▲
Johnson	80	Female Labor Force Participation Rate (Ages 20-64)	63.6%	60 ▼
Clay	81	Female Unemployment Rate (Ages 20-64)	11.3%	76 ▼
Polk	82	Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	27.4%	82 ▼
Hardin	83	Economic Autonomy Composite	68.71	86 ▼
Lewis	84	Women-owned Businesses Percent of Total†	NA	‡ □
Jackson	85	Percent of Females with 4-Year Degree or More (Age 25+)	9.3%	86 ▼
Sequatchie	86	Percent of Females with High School Diploma or Equivalent (Age 25+)	73.4%	79 ▲
Union	87	Female High School Dropout Rate	0.96%	93 ▼
Campbell	88	Percent of Women Uninsured (65 and under)	18.2%	88 ▼
Macon	89	Percent of Females Below Poverty Level	26.1%	83 ▼
Perry	90	Percent of Female-Headed Households with Children in Poverty*	44.9%	44 ▼
Fentress	91	Rate of Pregnancy for Girls Age 15-19 per 1000*	9	19 ▲
Grundy	92	County Overview: Macon women have made particular progress in high school graduation and teen pregnancy, and have shrunk the wage disparity between local men and women. Women are also participating in the work force at higher rates and improved their wages enough to keep pace with inflation. Unfortunately, Macon County women are struggling in the other indicators measured. Of particular note, women have slipped into poverty in increasing numbers, have diminished access to health insurance, appear to be earning fewer degrees, and are more likely to be unemployed than they were in 2000. Managerial presence has also suffered since 2000.		
Cocke	93			
Meigs	94			
Lake	95			

Note: all figures are based on estimates formed from sample data and are subject to sample error and rounding.

\* The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual demographic survey of the U.S. It provides the detailed demographic, economic and housing data that was once supplied by the Decennial Census Long Form. The ACS has a smaller sample so combines several years' data to produce multi-year estimates. Due to the small sample size there is an increased margin of error in many less populated counties for this indicator.

\*\* The 2005 County by County figures were based on a sample of girls age 10-19, whereas the 2012 report reflects the population of girls age 15-19.

† ACS sampling sizes are insufficient to publish certain figures for this category. An estimate was developed from the performance of surrounding counties for the purposes of creating a composite score.

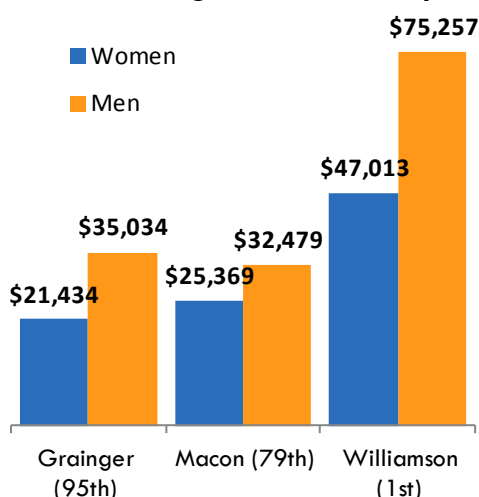
‡ Estimates are too unreliable or not available to be included in composite calculations. Any figure shown is an estimate for the reader's benefit only.

# The Status of Women in: Macon County

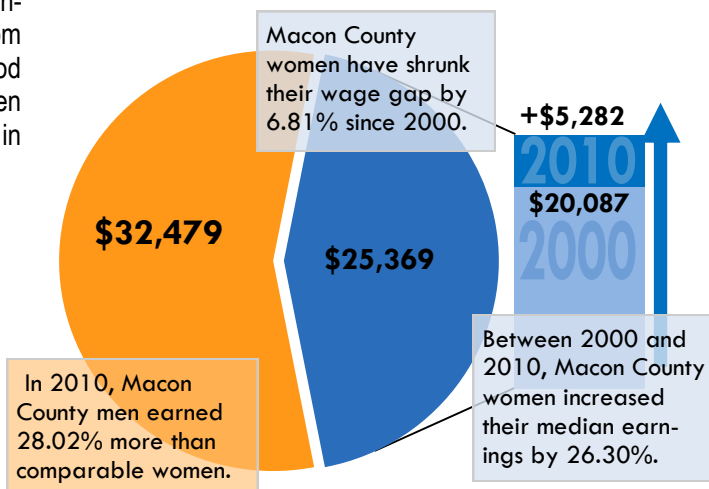
## ▲ Earnings

**M**acon County women have improved their median income by one-fourth since 2000, earning the 79th ranked income in Tennessee (down from 71st), and trailing inflation estimates during that period by 0.3 percent. In this measure, Macon County men earned only 15 percent more in 2010 than they had in 2000, but were ranked 32nd among their peers.

### Median Earnings: Counties Compared



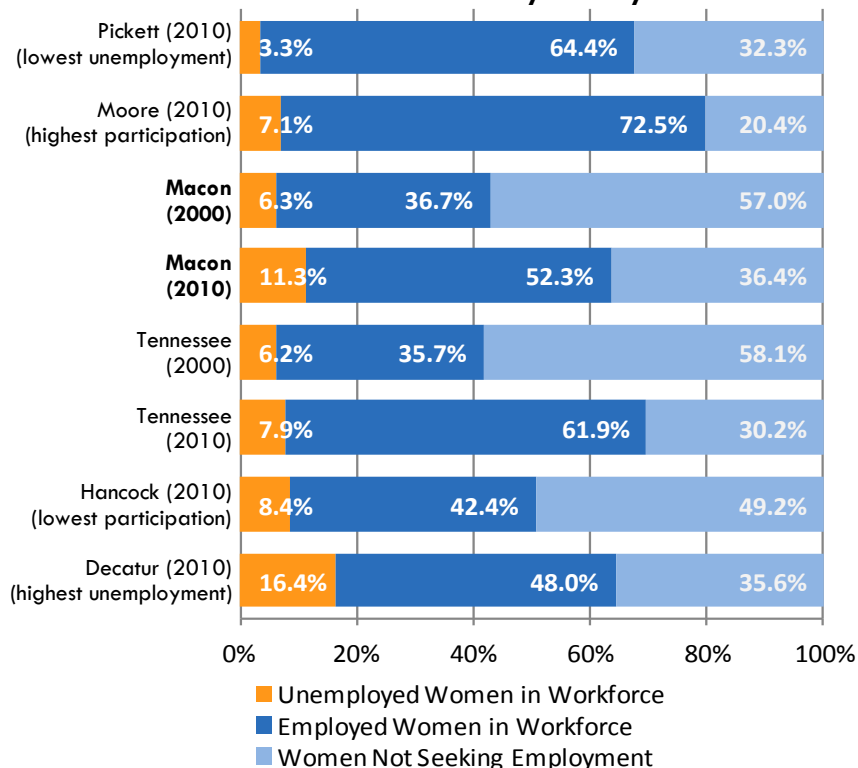
### Median Earnings and the Wage Gap, 2000-2010



With an increase of \$5,282 in their income, women in the county shortened their wage gap by 6.81 percent and rose from 37th to 52nd in this indicator between 2000 and 2010. Despite this, women in Macon County still earn only 78.11 percent of what local men make. This is 1.11 percent better than the statewide rate, but still results in a shortfall of \$7,110 annually.

## ▼ Employment

### Workforce Access for Women By County and Year



**Women** in Macon County now participate in the workforce at a rate of 63.6 percent; rising by 20.6 percent, but dropping to 60th in 2010 from 35th in 2000.

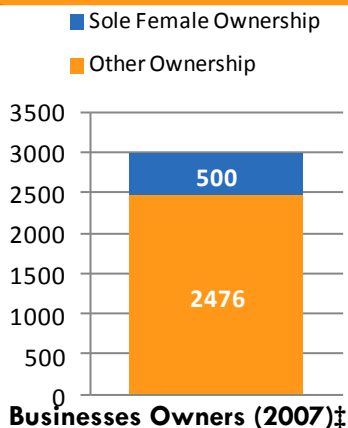
As of 2010, men were 12.3 percent more likely to participate in the labor pool than the average woman, and women with children under six were 17.5 percent more likely.

Unemployment has risen in Macon County as well. In 2010, 11.3 percent of women in the county were unemployed—3.4 percent higher than statewide rates—and Macon dropped in this indicator from 51st statewide to 76th.

Despite higher participation rates, men were less likely to be unemployed in 2010, at 9.2 percent, while 17.5 percent of women with young children were searching.

This pattern of lower male unemployment rates and higher rates for women with children is common across Tennessee.

# The Status of Women in: Macon County



**Macon** County women have experienced a slip in managerial presence since 2000. In 2010, 1.1 percent fewer managers were female, resulting in a significant drop in this indicator, from 33rd to 82nd. Macon now trails the statewide rate by 8.6 percent in this category.

Small samples sizes make it more difficult to predict business ownership trends in Macon County. As a result, it has been given a neutral score in this indicator to minimize bias in the overall rankings. Projections do indicate, however, that Macon women may have seen a rise in ownership since 2000.

## Women At Work

### Business Management

The incidence of female managers in Macon County decreased from 28.5% to 27.4% between 2000 and 2010.

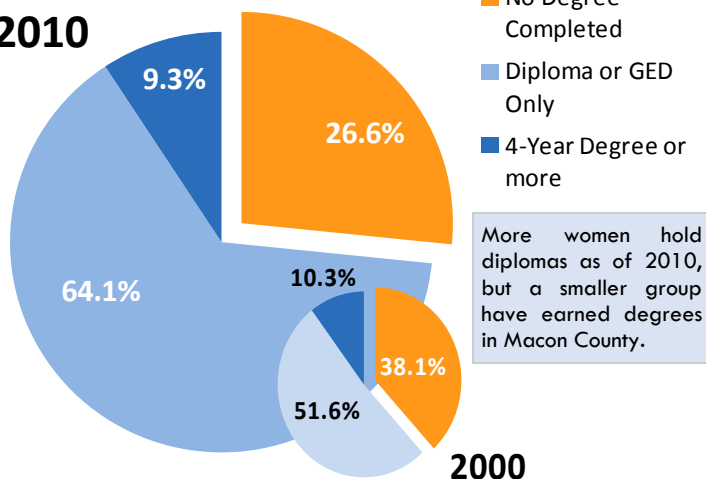
### Business Ownership‡

The percentage of women business owners in Macon is projected to have risen from 16.8% to 22.4% between 2000 and 2007.

## Education

Educational Attainment Above Age 25

2010



**Educational** efforts in Macon County have had mixed results since 2000.

The number of women holding four year degrees, for example, has declined by one percent and fallen 42 ranks, to 86th..

In contrast, the percent of women holding diplomas in the county has increased, and by a healthy 11.5 percent, moving up eight places, to 79th.

Finally, the dropout rate among Macon County girls reached 0.96 percent during the 2011-12 school year, resulting in a rank of 93rd, and comparing unfavorably to all but the two lowest counties in this category.

## Living

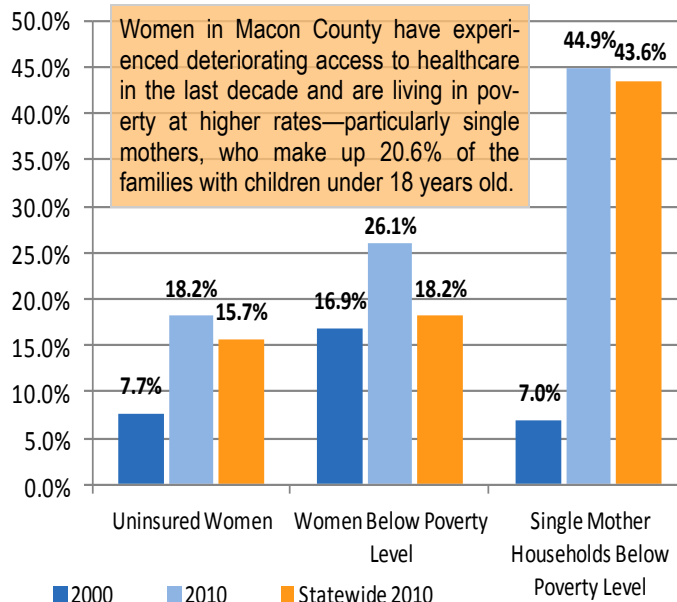
**Since** 2000, women in Macon County have experienced a dramatic decrease in health care access as well as a significant increase in poverty rates.

Of women in the county age 65 and under, over one in six were uninsured in 2010—more than double the rate in 2000, when only 7.7 percent went without insurance. Local women are now 2.5 percent less likely to be insured than the average woman in Tennessee, and Macon has dropped from 41st in the state to 88th in this indicator.

Overall poverty among women in Macon County has increased significantly as well. As of 2010, 26.1 percent of local women lived in poverty. This represented a rise of nearly ten percent over 2000's figure, and was nearly eight percent higher than the statewide rate.

Single mothers fared poorly during this period; they were more than six times as likely to live in poverty in 2010 as they were in 2000, and well more than twice as likely to do so as the average Tennessee woman. Macon dropped from 16th to 44th in this measure.

## Health and Poverty Indicators for Women: Macon County, 2000-2010



# About the Council and this Report

The **Status of Women in Tennessee Counties** report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of management occupations held by women.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of women with any kind of health insurance, percentage of women living in poverty and percentage of single female-headed households living in poverty, the female high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Employment and Earnings	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics' *
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as Percent of Male Earnings)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics'
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months for Full-Time, Year-Round Civilian Employed Population, 16 year and older'
Economic Autonomy	
Women-Owned Businesses Percent of Total	U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners 'Statistics for All U.S. Firms by Industry, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race...' † ‡
Percent of Females with 4-Yr Degree or More (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Percent of Females with High School Diploma (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Female High School Dropout Rate	Tennessee Department of Education, 2011-2012 School Year
Percent of Women Uninsured (65 or under)	U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
Percent of Women Below Poverty Level	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months'
Percent of Female-headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families' *
Rate of Pregnancy for Girls 15-19 (per 1000)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Fertility' *

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